

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 AGR-20 IGA-02 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 STR-08

EA-11 EUR-25 L-03 /122 R

DRAFTED BY EB; ORF; OFP; FPD; RHKNICKMEYER: ML

EXT 20635 3/23/73

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USDA/ FAS - RBIEBER

NEA/ ARP - MR. WRAMPALMEIER

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R 232008 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, US, SA

SUBJ: SAUDI CONCERN OVER SHORTAGE US RICE

REF: JIDDA 1115

1. US TRADE VERY RELUCTANT FOR COMPETITIVE REASONS TO PROVIDE DETAILED INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC OFFERS US RICE TO ANY DESTINATION, AS REQUESTED PARA 2 REFTEL.
 2. WHILE WE UNABLE PROJECT FUTURE CHANGES IN WORLD RICE PRICES, BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION INDICATES THAT PRESENT SHORT SUPPLY SITUATION WILL NOT EASE AT LEAST UNTIL LATE IN CALENDAR 1973 WHEN NEW CROP RICE FROM MAJOR EXPORTING COUNTRIES WILL BEGIN TO ENTER MARKET. BAD WEATHER IN ANY OF MAJOR PRODUCING AREAS BETWEEN NOW AND THEN COULD, ON THE OTHER HAND, RESULT IN CONTINUED TIGHT SUPPLIES.
 3. EMBASSY MAY FIND FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM THE WIMBLE MARKET REPORT (PRIVATE TRADE REPORT PUBLISHED IN LONDON) OF MARCH 16, 1973 USEFUL IN DISCUSSING CURRENT SUPPLY
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SITUATION. (INFORMATION MAY BE PROVIDED TO SAG BUT SHOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED.) QUOTE SIAM (THAILAND): IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO OFFER AS NO EXPORT PERMITS ARE AVAILABLE; AND IN FACT SOME OLD CONTRACTS CANNOT BE FULFILLED FOR THIS REASON. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT FURTHER RICE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO UK/ CONTINENT THIS SEASON, EXCEPT POSSIBLY LATE IN THE YEAR WHEN THE INTERNAL SUPPLY SITUATION IS ASSURED AND THE AUTHORITIES

HAVE SOME IDEA OF 1973/74 CROP PROSPECTS.

QUOTE U. S. A.: THE MARKET CONTINUES TO ADVANCE DUE TO CONSIDERABLE ENQUIRY FROM VARIOUS DESTINATIONS. WITH SIAM (THAILAND) OUT OF THE MARKET, AND ONLY LIMITED QUANTITIES OF LONG GRAIN RICE AVAILABLE FROM SOUTH AMERICA, WORLD DEMAND IS LARGELY FOCUSED ON THE U. S. A. VIRTUALLY NO PADDY IS NOW LEFT IN FARMERS HANDS AND SEVERAL MILLS ARE FULLY COMMITTED FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON: THERE IS A REAL POSSIBILITY THAT THE U. S. LONG GRAIN RICE MAY BE EXHAUSTED BEFORE THE END OF THE SEASON. THE NO. 3 LONG GRAIN 10 PERCENT (BROKEN KERNELS) TO THE U. K. IS QUOTED FROM ORIGIN AT POUNDS (STERLING) 170 PER LONG TON C AND F IN CONTAINERS, BUT THERE ARE RESELLERS HERE BELOW THIS LEVEL. UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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